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Changes in USDA-DHIA Genetic Evaluations (May 1998)

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Change in U.S. officiality of Interbull evaluations

More Interbull evaluations are considered official in the U.S. because of some changes in the requirements. For breeds other than Brown Swiss, the Interbull evaluation will be official if his Interbull evaluation includes another country, more daughters, at least as high a reliability and the USDA-DHIA reliability for a bull is less than 85%. The previous criteria was a USDA-DHIA reliability less than 80%, and an Interbull reliability higher by 5% or more. Requirements for Brown Swiss evaluations were not changed: an Interbull evaluation is official if its reliability is higher by 5% or more regardless of the USDA-DHIA reliability of the bull.

Bulls with foreign ID included in format-38 file

The file will include 5 AI bulls with identification that cannot be represented in the previous system. The bulls have country codes of NLD, NZL, and CAN for the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Canada. The CAN bull has an 8 digit ID number. Users of this file may need to make changes to accommodate these ID.

Frequency of genetic evaluations will remain at four per year

In May of 1997, AIPL began calculating genetic evaluations every three months. Some artificial insemination organizations and breed associations

were concerned about whether the benefits from the extra evaluations were great enough to offset the extra costs associated with the additional releases. Nevertheless, the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding reached a consensus that these additional evaluations should be continued. The Council's position agrees with the position of the AIPL research staff and so we anticipate that the current schedule will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Countries participating in Interbull are currently reviewing the schedule for Interbull releases to determine whether it would be advantageous for them to change from their current twice a year release to four times annually.

Emphasis directed toward a single Reliability for Yield

In an attempt to bring uniformity to advertising and reduce confusion to users, the National Association of Animal Breeders encouraged their members and AIPL to emphasize a single reliability for yield instead of separate reliabilities for milk, fat, and protein. This concept has now been endorsed by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeders which recommends that users should discontinue publishing the individual values by February 1999. AIPL announced last run that it was supporting this effort by renaming its Reliability of Milk, Fat, Protein dollars to Reliability for Yield. This notice informs cooperators of AIPL's plans to remove the separate reliabilities for the yield traits from our print image evaluation lists before this date.